



State of Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Administrative Policies and Procedures: 22.6

Subject: Dining Environment in Youth Development Centers and DCS Group Homes

Supersedes: DCS 22.6, 09/01/97

Local policy: No
Local procedures: Yes
Requires training: No
Applicable Practice Model Standard(s): Yes

Approved by:

Effective date: 09/01/97

Revision date: 08/01/05

Application

To All Department of Children's Services Youth Development Center and DCS Group Home Employees

Authority: TCA 37-5-105; 37-5-106; 37-5-113

Policy

All Youth Development Center (YDC) Superintendents and DCS Group Home supervisors shall develop guidelines to ensure that youth are treated fairly and consistently during meal times.

Procedures

A. Comfortable atmosphere

The YDC superintendent and DCS Group Home supervisor or designee must ensure that dining areas are pleasant, attractive and operated to reduce regimentation without risking the security level of the facility.

B. Utensils

Youth must be provided with appropriate eating utensils, including, at a minimum, a fork and spoon or spork, and napkin. Knives may be restricted based on the security level of the facility.

- C. Supervision** Staff members must supervise youth during meals adequately and firmly so that meals are served in pleasant surroundings.
- D. Conversation** Normal conversation must not be restricted during meal periods.
- E. Service to youth in segregation**
- 1. Equality of meals**
Youth in segregation must be served the same meal that the general population receives.
 - 2. Temperature of meals**
Care must be taken to ensure that the temperature of meals served in segregation is comparable to the temperature of meals served in the dining area.
 - 3. Utensils**
Forks may be restricted in segregation as needed for safety and security; decisions must be made on a case-by-case basis.
- F. Allotted time** Youth must be given at least fifteen (15) minutes during which to consume each meal.
- G. Role modeling** Staff must be encouraged to eat meals with youth to help them develop appropriate manners and conversational skills.

Forms

None

Collateral Documents

None

Standards

ACA 3-JCRF-4A-09

ACA 3-JTS-4A-13

DCS Practice Model Standard- 8-306